

Scr. No. 10/718,855

### Remarks

Claims 1-19 were pending in the application. Claims 5-9 and 17-19 were rejected. Claims 1-4 were withdrawn. Claims 10-16 were merely objected to and no claims were allowed. By the foregoing amendment, claims 1-4, 10, 15, and 16 are canceled, claims 5, 11-14, and 19 are amended (19 only to add a period), and claims 20-25 are added. No new matter is presented.

### Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 10-16. Claim 10 has been re-presented in independent form as claim 5. The amendments to the remaining claims are for corresponding dependence.

### Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 5-9 and 17-19 were rejected as being anticipated by Hunter (US Patent No. 5,494,004). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as to the amended claims. In view of the amendment to claim 5, the rejection is believed moot.

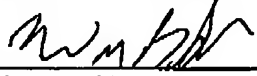
New claim 20 references the two mixtures of former claim 10 but does not reference the purge gas of former base claim 5. This is not suggested by the references.

The five remaining claims are clearly further supported by paragraph 0021 of the as-filed application (0023 of the PGPub.). Whereas claim 20 addresses the locations where the two mixtures are introduced, independent claim 23 addresses the locations/volumes where they are positioned prior to combustion. This, too, is not suggested by the references.

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Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 5-9, 11-14, and 17-25 are in condition for allowance. Please charge any fees or deficiency or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account of record.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
William B. Slate  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No.: 37,238

Telephone: 203-777-6628  
Telefax: 203-865-0297

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2006 to the USPTO, at Fax No. 1-571-273-8300.

  
Antoinette Sullo